

## RIVAL FACTIONS MAKE CHARGES IN CLAN TRIAL

**Operators Issue a 2,000-  
Word Statement At-  
tacking Union.**

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**WORKERS CLAIM  
PROOF OF BRIBERY**

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**Each Side Says Fight to  
Gain Supremacy Has  
Just Begun.**

WILLIAMSON, W. Va., Feb. 2.—Typewriter warfare broke out here tonight. Charges of murder and attempted bribery were the heavy artillery; the Williamson Coal Operators' Association and the United Mine Workers of America the combatants. Each side, after delivering its opening blast, declared that it had only begun to fight.

A psychological moment was chosen for the opening of hostilities. The end of the seventh day of the Matewan gun-fight: case an inseparable part of the struggle between miners and operators, was consumed in selecting four additional tentative jurors, and prospects of getting a full jury seemed more remote than ever. The town is quiet and peaceful. Interest in the "trigger trial" has subsided and will remain latent until the first witness is put on.

So the coal operators' association fired its opening gun in the form of a 2,000-word statement. It declared that there is neither a local nor a national strike in force in the Williamson field, now that the union movement has collapsed, that the United Mine Workers is "the most tyrannical of all labor organizations," using brutal and murderous means to further its ends. The statement added: "More than 100 lives have been committed in Mingo County to the massacre of Matewan." Not only these murders have been the result of aggression by mine guards. All without exception are chargeable to representatives of the United Mine Workers.

Denying these charges, the

C. M. Workman, manager of District No. 17, United Mine Workers of America, made this charge.

"The Operators' Association through the Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency, attempted to bribe Sheriff Blankenship with an offer of \$10,000, and offered Mayor Tester, man, of Matewan, \$1,000 for permission to bring machine guns into the corporate limits."

Blankenship, now station agent at Matewan, was county sheriff at the time of the great gun battle on March 15 last, which forms the background of the "trucker trial." Mayor Testerman was one of the ten men killed in that battle. His widow married Sid Hatfield, Matewan's chief of police, nine days after the battle.

"All the assertions contained in it will be substantiated in the trial."

Another of Workman's assertion was:

"Judge James Damron then of the bench of the Circuit Court now

ing the defendants, and who unexpectedly resigned and became counsel for the Operators' Association, and who is now actually engaged in prosecuting the defendants in a public campaign advertisement. At Matewan said the operators had offered him \$5,000 to assist them.

of Bias and Wiles, prominent attorney of Williamson representing the Coal Operators' Association, admitted that he had offered \$2,000 to Tony Webb, a deputy sheriff of Mingo, to influence him to fight the United Mine Workers.

**Find Another Juror.**

In the course of today's effort to add to the tentative panel, a man was discovered who had not heard about the Matewan battle.

until today. He is Moses Workman, a farmer, who lives "eight miles on the other side of Dings," which is by way of describing an isolated region of Mingo. He testified that he could neither read nor write. He was accepted. A deputy

sheriff had summoned him last night. Workman rode into town today on horseback, got off in front of the court house and asked what it was all about. He was conducted into the courtroom. His examination was one of the briefest of record. Court and counsel favor such men for the jury, though it is doubtful whether there is another like him in the county.

"Well, let's have it just once more," said the interrogating attorney, with a patient smile. Another

**Export Concern Asks**

### \$10,000,000 Loan Here

The first application for a loan financing foreign exports approved since the revival of the War Finance Corporation was announced by Mac-

It was that of a group of American banks for an advance of not exceeding \$10,000,000. The loan which is to run over a year is to finance the exportation of condensed milk and other milk products to Eng-